

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE **I-A**BALTIMORE SUN
8 July 1986

FILE ONLY

Waldheim tied to army orders for deportation

By G. Jefferson Price III
Jerusalem Bureau of The Sun

JERUSALEM — The World Jewish Congress yesterday disclosed a document showing that the German army unit to which Austrian President-elect Kurt Waldheim belonged "ordered Jewish deportations" from Greece during World War II.

The WJC officials said the document, obtained from West German archives in Freiburg, reveals that the unit to which Mr. Waldheim was attached in the eastern Aegean area not only issued those orders but received field reports on their implementation.

The group said Mr. Waldheim has admitted being the operational intelligence officer of his unit.

"The documents directly contradict Waldheim's repeated claims that he did not even know of such deportations," the WJC charged in a statement. "In a letter to WJC President Edgar Bronfman March 7, Waldheim said he had 'never been informed' about the deportation of Greek Jews."

The latest charge, which the WJC said went a step beyond previous allegations that Mr. Waldheim

knew about deportations, came on the eve of Mr. Waldheim's inauguration today as president of Austria after a campaign in which the WJC's investigation of the former United Nations secretary-general's Nazi past figured as a major issue.

In Vienna, a spokesman for Mr. Waldheim denounced the new charge as part of "an evil defamation campaign."

"This is an old paper which already was presented some time ago," said Gerold Christian, the Waldheim aide. "It lacks all proof of veracity and any basis for suspicion or accusations."

The document presented by the WJC appears to be a progress report dispatched to German intelligence headquarters in Greece, identified as 'IC/AO.' This was a unit commanding the eastern Aegean region in which Mr. Waldheim served as the 'top assistant to the intelligence chief at headquarters,' according to the WJC.

The report covers a dozen subjects from espionage to the disposition of captured radio equipment. The description of the deportation of Jews appears as the eighth item in the four-page report, in a single paragraph:

"End of July, 1944 the deportation of Jews of non-Turkish citizenship from the entire area of com-

mand per instructions from the high command of Military Group E, IC/AO. Execution in the hands of SD-Greece which sent a special commando [unit] for the purpose to the command area. The documents have been held back because further documentation is required."

"The Jews on Rhodes and Crete, numbering some 2,500 men, women and children, were rounded up and stripped of their possessions during the final weeks of July, 1944," according to the WJC statement. "They were shipped to the Auschwitz death camp . . . where nearly all of them were annihilated."

According to the WJC, Mr. Waldheim reported to the U.S. Justice Department April 6 that he served as the designated "03" officer in the IC/AO.

The WJC statement, citing a 1946 study by the U.S. War Department, identified an "03" as the "deputy of the chief intelligence officer . . . responsible for all operational intelligence and control of the intelligence staff."

"Kurt Waldheim has been proven to be an amoral opportunist, a liar," Mr. Bronfman said at a press conference here.

The WJC, a U.S.-based Jewish group, repeated its demand that the U.S. Justice Department place Mr. Waldheim on its list of aliens forbidden to visit the United States.